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ABSTRACT

One in a series of four guides developed for use by parents of children enrolled in a Title I reading improvement program, this booklet provides learning activities and suggestions for improving the reading abilities and skills of junior high/middle school children. The areas covered are homework, reading comprehension, word study skills, word games, word lists, and travel games. (FL)

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TITLE I

HELPBOOK

Helping Energetic Learning Parents

in

Middle School/Jr. High

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
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MIDDLE SCHOOL/JR. HIGH HELPBOOK

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Forward

Title I is part of a law passed by Congress to provide federal money to school districts with all or some of their buildings eligible because they meet certain economic requirements. The amount of money the school district receives is decided by the number of children from low income families who live there.

Any child in a building that qualifies can be served if the child meets the federal guidelines for his/her grade. The help the children receive from the Title I reading specialists must be extra help. He must continue to get the regular program the school provides all children.

The Congress of the United States mandated that Parent Advisory Councils be formed in every district receiving Title I money. The reason is to insure that the parents would have input into the program's planning and implementation.

Preface

"Reading is Fundamental", a slogan used by the federal government to stress the importance of reading, is certainly true. If your child can read as he matures into an adult, he will be able to choose and have success in many areas. If your child cannot read, his choices will be narrow and his failures will be many.

I am confident that you want the very best for your children. In the area of reading, **you, as parents, can** provide the very best for your children. By following the suggestions in these booklets, being interested in reading yourself, and being interested in your child's reading, you will show that you care enough to do the very best.

Working together your child's reading abilities and skills will improve.

A big step for any child is the movement from grade school into the middle school (or junior high).

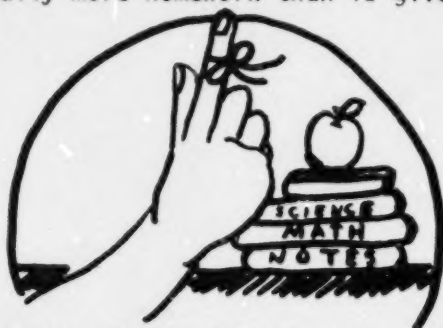
It is also a change for the parents. Their child is becoming a teenager. He is developing and changing with each day. He is spending more time with kids his own age rather than spending time with his family.

There are more social activities. Students attend dances, join clubs, participate in sports, and ask their parents to drive them to all these things.



The way the student is taught is also different. Instead of staying mainly in one room, he now must change rooms for each class. Instead of one main teacher, he has a teacher for each subject.

The teacher expects the student to have their homework done without being reminded. Also there is usually more homework than is given in grade school.



Through all of this, how can you HELP your teenager read better?

In the following pages you will find some things to do with your son or daughter that will HELP their reading.

Above all, remember the Title I reading specialist is eager to HELP. Call him/her if you have any questions!

Name of Title I
Reading Specialist _____

Phone number of school _____

A STUDENT'S WORK IS NEVER DONE!



Every student groans, but homework is still assigned.

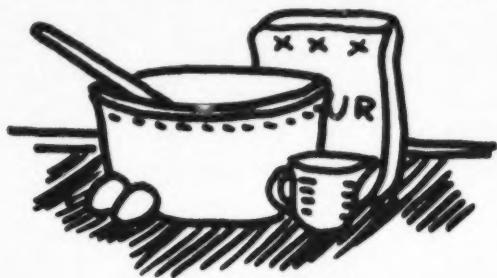
As a parent there are certain things to remember that will HELP your child.

1. Set aside a certain time each day for homework and/or reading.
2. Provide a QUIET place.
3. Be sure the lighting is good.
4. Always have pencils and paper on hand.
5. A dictionary is handy (paperback is nice).
6. NO TV while studying.

If you have questions, contact the school to see what their homework policy is.

"Understanding What Is Read"

The rule usually is - The more you read, the better reader you become. And it is amazing how much we do read. We read to follow recipes.



We read directions to put things together.



We read to HELP our children.



How can you HELP your teenager read with more understanding? By giving him things to read that he finds interesting will HELP him. For Christmas or a birthday what about a subscription to a favorite magazine.



When you go shopping have your son or daughter HELP by having them read the labels to be sure the container has in it what you want.



After shopping for the ingredients, following a recipe is an ideal way to know if you have followed the directions carefully.

If you have a T.V. Guide ask your teenager to read about each show that is on that night. Only after he has read it, can he pick the show that is to be watched.



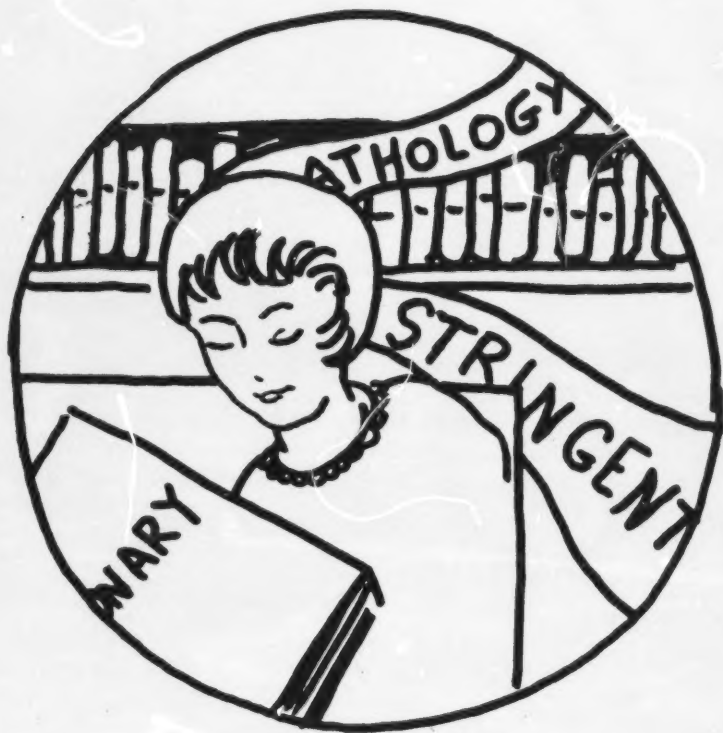
WORDS - How to Get More

Sometimes we think our children should know words that we already know. But do they know words that we use in our life of work and banking? Words such as gross salary, finance charge and employer have little meaning for your son or daughter if they have not used them.

The best way to learn the words is by using them. Take your son or daughter to the bank and help them open their own checking and/or savings account. Do they have a part time job? Teach them how to budget their money. How much should he put in savings, how much in checking, and how much in his pocket.



Always have a dictionary handy to look up
unknown words. Remember your son and daughter do
as you do.



Games for Learning Words

1. Word Bingo

This is a game the whole family can play.

Take a sheet of paper or cardboard about the size of a Bingo card. Divide it into 25 squares. Instead of numbers in each square, put a word. The words on the survival list or words of your own choosing may be used. (Be sure each card is different) The survival list is located on a following page. Keep a list of the words you use for the caller. The first person that gets five in a line then becomes the caller. A sample card is on the next page. You can make other cards using these words in a different order on other cards.

check	bank	credit	money	legal
aliases	agency	salary	military	penalty
10 savings	reside	gross	net	loan
apply	loans	finance	merits	civil
minimum	prior	data	enclose	submit

11				

Survival List

The reading specialist in the Franklin Area School District gathered job and credit applications from the businesses of the area. They then made a list of words that need to be known in order to fill out these applications.

background check	gross salary
enclose	co-applicant
legal	finance charge
forfeited bond or collateral	verification
now pending	omission
merits	falsification
eligibility	misrepresentation
correspondence	probationary
draft status	civil service
employment record	personal leave
credit	no comfort facilities
finance companies	aliases
bank loans	length or residency
credit cards	boarding house
authorized buyers	with whom do you reside

previous employer

any reason we should
not communicate with
previous employer

type of discharge

dates served

armed forces

branch of service

highest rank held

including military
service

most recent/current
employer

submit the data on
extra sheets

minimum salary

agency

present position

prior position

submitted

immediate supervisor

convicted

violation, offense

penalty imposed

c. Hangman

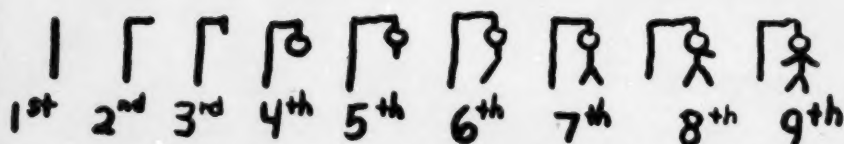
Someone thinks of a word and draws the number of blanks for the word.

— — — —

The other players try to guess a letter in the word. If he guesses an "a" and "a" is in the word, the letter is added in it's proper place.

— — a —

If a letter is guessed that is not in the word, part of the hangman is drawn. You can make 8 wrong guesses. The ninth wrong guess - you lose.



Hint: Guess the vowels a, e, i, o, u first.

Guesser: "e"

then _ e _ _

Guesser: "d"

then _ e a d

Guesser "r"

then r e a d

That's it!! r e a d

2. Travel Games

Whenever we go somewhere in a car, we pass many signs. Games that involve reading these signs can help your teenager learn new words. It can also help him/her get ready for when it comes time to read the driver's manual.



- a. Take turns reading road signs. Whoever reads the most signs correctly is the winner.
- b. Starting with "A" find the letters of the alphabet in signs along the road. The only catch is you can't go to "B" before you find "A", or go to "C" before you find "B", etc.

These have just been a few ideas to HELP you.
One important thing to remember is to be patient. No
one likes to be forced to do anything.



Below is space for you to write ideas of games
to play, or games you enjoy playing as a family (such
as Monopoly, Scrabble, Risk, etc.). Share these with
your Title I reading specialist.